

UPCOMING EVENTS

- SEPT. 22 - Field Day: Introduction to Forest Stewardship & Member and Volunteer Thank-you Picnic**
Bethel, NY at the Conservancy's New York Office - 9-12pm and 12pm-4pm
- SEPT. 23 - Harvest Festival at Bethel Woods**
Bethel, NY, 11am-4pm
- OCT. 6 - Fall Hike: Crystal Lake Wild Forest**
Fremont, NY, 10am-12pm
- OCT. 13 - Forestry Field Day: Timber to 2x4s**
With the Pike-Monroe Woodland Owners Group—Pike County, PA
- OCT. 20 - Annual General Meeting for Conservancy Members**
Hawley, PA: PPL Environmental Learning Center, 10am-12pm

Visit www.DelawareHighlands.org for more information on these events and others, and to register.

Non-Profit Org.
Hawley, PA
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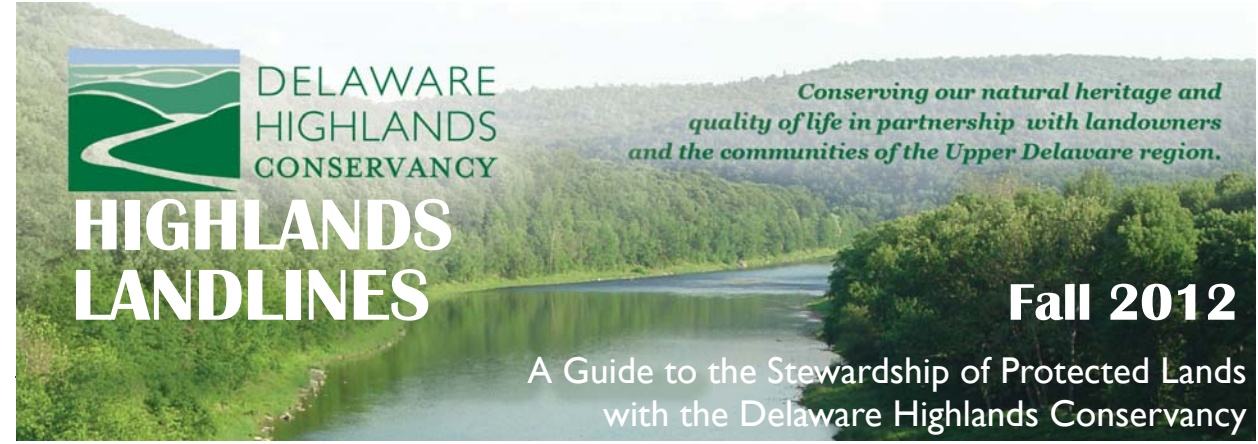
DELAWARE HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY

servng New York and Pennsylvania
P.O. Box 218 Hawley, PA 18428-0218



Photo by David B. Soete.

- INSIDE**
- Hunter Access Program for Landowners
 - What's Your Acorn Potential?
 - New Shop Local Save Land Guides
 - Conservancy Thanks Easement Owners



Hunter Access Program Means Stewardship Help for Forest Landowners

The Pennsylvania Game Commission has a program available to assist forest landowners who are willing to provide hunters limited access to their forests.

The Hunter Access Program is open to forest landowners—including corporations, partnerships, and conservancies—with at least one hundred huntable acres. Forest landowners with at least fifty huntable acres adjacent to public lands or another Hunter Access Cooperator are also eligible.



Photo by David B. Soete.

Landowners enrolled in the Hunter Access Program enjoy:

- **Free Habitat Improvements** to improve forest wildlife habitats and implement forest stewardship plans.
- Eligibility to receive **500 free tree and shrub seedlings**, and free bluebird boxes and cavity nesting boxes (for barn owls, kestrels, and others).
- A free subscription to *PA Game News*.
- Reduced-cost hunting licenses and early application for antlerless deer licenses.

The stewardship projects must be at least ten acres, and include “either non-commercial forest treatments that create even-aged young forests, such as cutting low quality forest to create blocks of regenerating habitat, or native tree and shrub plantings into existing disturbed sites such as failed clearcuts, reclaimed strip mines, and similar human disturbances.”



Photo by David B. Soete.

The Delaware Highlands Conservancy is a land trust dedicated to conserving our natural heritage and quality of life in partnership with landowners and the communities of the Upper Delaware River region.

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Highlands Landlines is a semi-annual newsletter created by the Conservancy for landowners who have a conservation easement with the Conservancy. This publication is also available electronically.



What is Highlands LandLines?

You probably already receive the Delaware Highlands Conservancy's regular newsletter, *Highlands Journal*. Our newsletter is distributed to all of our landowners, members, and other like-minded folks who are interested in the Conservancy's activities, accomplishments, and conservation goals.

This publication, *Highlands LandLines*, comes to you twice a year and is dedicated to landowners. *LandLines* provides you, the landowner, with useful information and tips for the stewardship of your land and conservation easement.

Participate in LandLines!

We are interested in your ideas for future articles and features, or your comments on the publication in general.

We'd love to know what you think!



Delaware Highlands Conservancy is a proud partner with Common Waters.
www.CommonWatersFund.org/partners

Join us on Saturday, September 22 from 9-11am for an **Introduction to Forest Stewardship Field Day** at our New York office in Bethel, NY, followed by our **Member and Volunteer Thank-you Picnic & Raffle** from 12-4pm. Visit www.DelawareHighlands.org for more information.

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Hunter Access Program, con't...



Photo by David B. Soete.

Hunter Access Cooperators sign a basic agreement with the Game Commission and may choose to restrict access for some species or seasons in four primary categories: Deer, Turkey, Small Game, or Trapping. Landowners are only required to allow "reasonable unrestricted access" in at least one category, and may limit the number of hunters on the property as well as the type of vehicles allowed (if vehicles are permitted). Landowners are then provided annually and upon request with signs indicating allowable hunting and trapping activities and specifying designated Safety Zones, and may also request signs for specific areas or issues of concern.

Hunters are instructed to ask permission of the landowner before hunting on private lands. The Game Commission also provides liability protection for the landowner under

the Recreational Use of Land and Water Act (RULWA) "due to the actions of a hunter or trapper on their property, including harm to the hunter or trapper, other recreational users, and other persons or property."

The Game Commission has partnered with the Pennsylvania Forestry Association (PFA) and the Pennsylvania Tree Farm Program (PATF) in this initiative, and has so far enrolled nearly **three million acres** of private lands.

If you are interested in enrolling in the Hunter Access Program or wish to learn more, contact your local PFA or PATF contacts if you are a member of these organizations, or contact the PA Game Commission Regional Office. For the northeast region, call (570) 675-1143.

Article adapted from the original "PGC Hunter Access Program Assists Forest Landowners" by Mike Pruss, Private Lands Section Chief, Pennsylvania Game Commission, originally found in *Forest Leaves*, Vol. 21.4, Spring 2012.

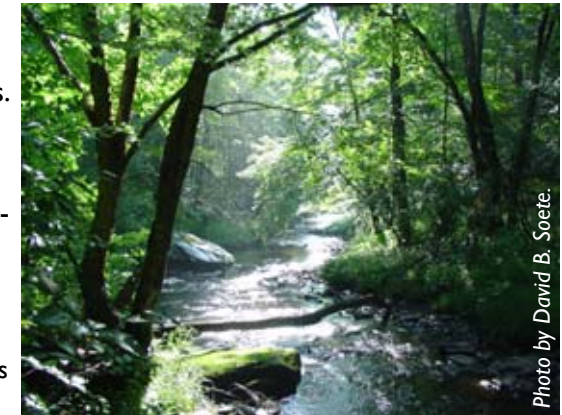


Photo by David B. Soete.

New Website for Women Forest Landowners

www.WomenOwningWoodlands.net



The Women Owning Woodlands web project strives to bring topical, accessible, and current forestry information to women woodland owners and forest practitioners through news articles, blogs, events, resources, and personal stories. We support women in forest leadership, women who manage their own woodlands, and all who facilitate the stewardship of forests.

Forest Lessons: What's Your Acorn Potential?



An important food source for many animals from late fall through early spring is *hard mast*, which is food such as acorns, hickory nuts, beech nuts, and other hard seeds or fruits. **Landowners concerned about woodland wildlife frequently ask how they can assess the amount of mast their land could produce.** Although there can be great annual variability, there is a way to judge a particular stand's overall potential to produce acorn mast.

You'll need paper and pencil, something to measure 60 feet on the ground, and a diameter tape or regular tape measure to determine tree diameters. Your results will give you a good idea how well the wildlife on your land might fare this winter.

Step 1: Make Plots

Walk through your woodland and find three or four areas that seem to best represent the average condition of your forest. In each of these areas, mark off a circle with a 60-foot radius. (Each circle approximates a quarter-acre plot.)

Step 2: Find and Count

Within each circular plot, find and count all the oak trees with a Diameter at Breast Height (DBH – 4.5' off the ground) of 10 inches or more. (Remember, diameter = circumference/3.14.) We use a DBH of at least 10 inches because oaks usually do not begin producing substantial acorn crops until they are that size. On a tally sheet, separate your count of oaks into 2-inch diameter classes (e.g., 10-11.9", 12-13.9", 14-15.9", and so forth).

Step 3: Calculate

Using the Basal Area Table provided, calculate the basal area for each DBH class. For example, if you counted 6 oaks in the 12-inch DBH group, multiply 6 by 0.79 (6 x 0.79 = 4.7). Calculate separate DBH class values for each circular plot. Do not add similar classes from all circles together.

Step 4: Add, Multiply, and Compare

Add the basal area totals for all DBH classes within each circle and multiply by 4 to estimate the potential per acre. Compare the figure to the Acorn Potential chart to determine the quality of your stand. You can average the totals you get for each circle to assess overall condition of the forest, or you can use the individual totals for each plot to compare one area of the forest with another.

What Does the Index Mean?

It is important to understand that this procedure will provide only an index to the acorn potential that exists in your forest. Whether you actually realize that level of production depends on many site-specific and environmental factors. If your calculated acorn potential came out poor to fair, but you saw many oak trees smaller than 10 inches DBH, you simply need to wait until the trees mature to realize the potential. An exceptionally high rating might be a clue that the stand has reached its potential. In fact, production might begin to decline unless you use silvicultural practices to reduce competition or crowding as well as to ensure proper regeneration for future crops. That's when you'll want to call in your forester.

BASAL AREA TABLE	
DBH	Basal Area
10"	0.55
12"	0.79
14"	1.07
16"	1.40
18"	1.77
20"	2.18
22"	2.64

ACORN POTENTIAL	
Basal Area Score	Potential
Below 40	Poor
40-60	Fair
61-80	Good
81-100	Excellent
Over 100	Excellent, may benefit from thinning

Native Species Spotlight

Cardinal Flower *Lobelia cardinalis*

This stunning flower can be found in moist to wet areas along creeks, rivers and wetlands. The Cardinal Flower blooms in late summer.

The flowers are arranged in 8-inch spikes and the individual flowers have five petals, three petals on the bottom and one on each side.

Its bright red flowers and sweet nectar attract hummingbirds and butterflies, not cardinals.

Although the plant is considered poisonous, and is toxic to some animals such as cats, dogs, and horses, it has traditionally been used for a wide range of medicinal uses such as stomach aches, typhoid and colds.



Invasive Species Corner

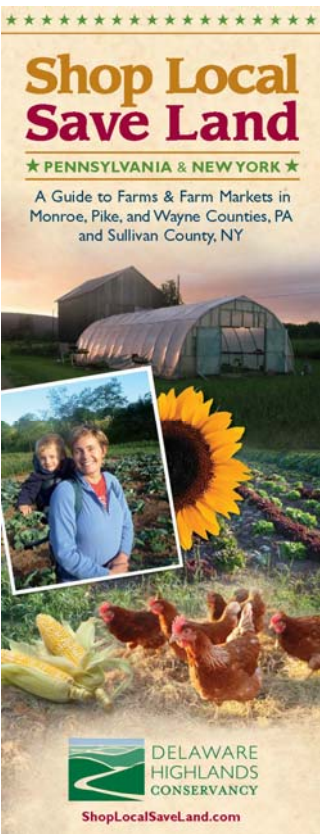


Didymo (*Didymosphenia geminata*)

Didymo, commonly called "rock snot," does not feel like snot at all. It actually has a texture of wet wool or cotton and is not slimy. The name "rock snot" comes more from the look of algal bloom, which forms white strands from its thick dense brownish tan masses. **This algae has been found in the East and West branches of the Delaware River and as far south as Callicoon, NY.**

To prevent the spread of Didymo, make sure you inspect all materials and boats before you leave the water's edge. Then submerge or spray any fishing equipment, paddles, life jackets, or other materials that have been exposed to potentially infested waters in a 2% solution of household bleach for at least one minute. Another method is to dry your equipment and let it sit for another 48 hours prior using it in a different freshwater system.

For more information, visit the PA and Boat Commission at <http://fishandboat.com/ais/ais-action-didymo.pdf> or the NYSDEC at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/265.html>.



New 2012 Shop Local Save Land Guides Are Here!

New for 2012, the 4th edition of the award-winning **Shop Local Save Land Guide to Farms and Farm Markets** and the 2nd edition of the **Guide to Wood Products, Professionals and Resources** are available for you!

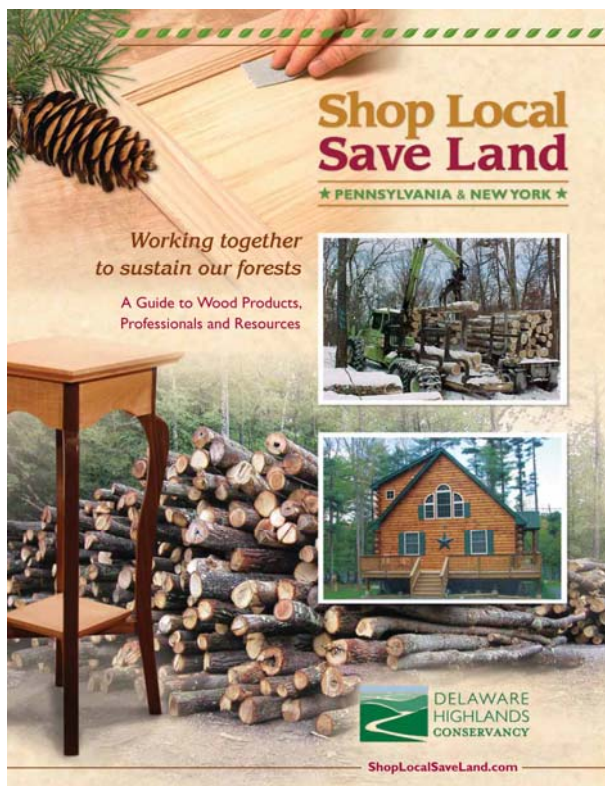
The guides are **easy-to-use, easy-to-carry, one-stop resources for finding local farms, farm markets, and forest product providers.** Supporting local forest products businesses means supporting our locally sustainable forest economy, and it means the ability to sustain the forestlands we cherish.

Supporting local agricultural providers means eating delicious, fresh, healthy foods. It also means protecting the hills of rolling farmlands that add to the scenic beauty of the Upper Delaware River region and bring visitors here who support not only locally produced farm

products, but other local businesses too.

Stop by our offices in Hawley, PA and Bethel, NY to get your copies! They are also available at many fine local businesses throughout our region.

We encourage support of all our locally sustainable economies--farm, forest, and ecotourism--because vibrant clean local economies means the lands and waters that sustain us will be healthier for everyone, now and for the long term.



Conservancy Thanks Easement Owners



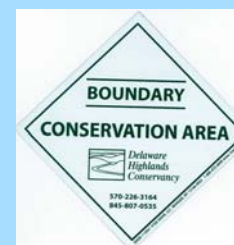
The Conservancy's New York office, located on the beautiful protected property owned by Lou Barr.

On September 22 at our Bethel Office, 120 Segar Road, Kauneonga Lake, NY, the Conservancy is hosting a **THANK YOU picnic** for our members, supporters, and volunteers — all the folks who help to assure the Conservancy's continuing conservation successes in our beautiful and unique Upper Delaware River region.

A special thank you is reserved for our easement holders, those landowners who have taken the important step to permanently protect their property or who have purchased properties on which easements have been placed.

Whatever the personal reasons for protecting private lands, the whole regional community benefits from the act. Though we own parcels of land, where healthy habitats for people and wildlife, ecosystems, and clean water are concerned, there are no boundaries. Whenever a landowner protects land and cares for it well, he or she is contributing the environmental health, beauty, and overall great quality of life in our region.

Help Monitor Other Protected Properties!



As you know, the Conservancy conducts annual visits to our protected properties throughout the summer. Our Monitoring Coordinator, Jamie Bartholomew, is always looking for volunteers to help out with monitoring visits. It's a great way to meet other landowners, see some beautiful properties, and enjoy a nice day in the outdoors!

To volunteer, send an email to monitor@delawarehighlands.org or call 570-226-3164, and Jamie will add you to her list for next year. You are free to help out as much or as little as you would like, in the morning or the afternoon.



Find us at <http://www.facebook.com/DelawareHighlandsConservancy>, and visit www.DelawareHighlands.org for even more interesting info.